

**Michigan Soybean Association
House Oversight Committee
Talking Points SB 431 & HB 4246 Bio Procurement
Executive Director Gail Frahm
September 16, 2014**

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

I am Gail Frahm, Executive Director of the Michigan Soybean Association. Thank you for taking up this bio procurement legislation and thank you to Senator Caswell & Representative Muxlow for moving this issue forward.

SB 431 will add to the statute of items for Management and Budget to consider for in-state purchasing and ordering to include biobased products that have the United States Department of Agriculture certified product labeling for the federal procurement preference program. USDA certifies and administers the list of approved biobased products, which now numbers over 1200 products in approximately 85 categories.

Michigan soybean farmers grow the base for many of these products available on the biopreferred certified product list including: various oils, chain saw lubricants, foam products for auto manufacturing, insulation, printing ink, cleaners, and many more!

As a matter of fact one of those items, this Nesoil Bar and Chain Lubricant is made from lo saturated fat soybeans which are grown and processed in Michigan at Zeeland Farm Services. Then the oil is shipped and packaged elsewhere in Michigan. This total loss oil is a good example of a product that can be used by many government agencies such as state parks, state police, prisons, and so forth. Other bio products such as the soy toilet scrub and hand sanitizer containing soy protein, may or may not be grown in Michigan, but are products that could be certified for the bio preferred certified product list.

While this bill includes all biobased products, Michigan Soybean Association hopes to encourage, through this legislation, new biobased manufacturing and processing in Michigan. This will lead to new jobs and greater demand for our soybeans.

Michigan's farmers look forward to a broader market for our biobased products and appreciate your support for this bill.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I will answer any questions that the committee may have.